

Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the First Things First Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on January 8, 2014 at the Kyrene Family Resource Center, 1330 East Dava Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85283.

Chair Duane welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:46 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Maureen Duane and Council Members Trinity Donovan, Beth Haas, Zita Johnson, Frank Narducci (appearing telephonically), and Tina Wilson

Members Absent:

Vice Chair Genoveva Acosta-Bueno and Council Members Lyra Contreras, Karen Emery, Mara de Luca Funke, and Kathy Halter.

There were 13 members of the public present.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2013

Council Member Narducci moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 13, 2013. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

Call to the Public

Catherine Mayorga with the Guadalupe Family Resource Center and Parenting Arizona filled out a Call to the Public form, but then withdrew it and stated she would speak during the conversations with grantees' agenda item.

SFY 2015 East Maricopa Funding Plan

Regional Director Joanne Floth reviewed the funding plan with the Council members.

Grantee Narrative/Data Reports

Regional Director Floth reviewed the data report and narrative summaries with the Council members.

Grantee Renewal Process

Regional Director Floth stated that the Council members will be voting only for the regional specific grantees. The renewal packets will be sent out in March to the grantees. The responses are due back on April 1, at which time staff will review them, ask for clarifications, if necessary. The staff recommendations will be provided to the Council in the April or May meeting for approval before May 17. In response to a question from Council Member Johnson, Regional Director Floth stated that although grantees serve the entire area, they are not required to

report the services they report by geographic area in their reports, however, that information can be requested in the renewal process. Council Member Haas mentioned that there are Quality First sites in Ahwatukee.

Conversations with Family Support Grantees

Chair Duane welcomed everyone, and Regional Director Floth asked the grantees to share what they are doing in the community. The grantees were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their services and then discuss the impacts they have made in the community and finally, to discuss the barriers and/or challenges they are still facing.

Miguel Gomez with Healthy Families provided an overview of his program and stated that barriers included circumstances of the family including substance abuse issues and transitional families actually being able to come in and participate on a volunteer basis. Developmental screenings are conducted, and they will be starting depression screenings on parents. He further stated that they have been distributing at least three children's books per family. Council Member Wilson asked what volunteer services and items are needed. Mr. Gomez stated that all items are needed, since they are assisting many families who are attempting to go into their first home.

Jill Stamm and DyAnn O'Brien with New Directions Institute provided information about their Bright Beginnings program which includes Brain Time, parenting programs, and Brain Boxes. Some of the challenges noted are that parents who have children in school want to attend without their children, however, the program is set up for parents to attend with their children. The STEPS program encompasses both pre and post-surveys to see what the parents have learned. They have sessions which are held at school and center sites, one of which will be starting next week at Summit Preschool in Ahwatukee. There are challenges in providing services to people in Guadalupe, and they have to make extra efforts to follow through with parents. They did note that all of their programs are also available in Spanish.

Carol Lopinski with the Child Crisis Center provided information about the services they provide for central intake for the My Child is Ready program. She stated that 19 people are presently on the waiting list. Due to the waiting list length of an average of six months, parents who call in are mailed a resource packet that is tailored for their needs. Those on the waiting list also receive three to five contacts per month and are provided with additional resources during those communications.

Alejandra Verdin with the Chandler Christian Community Center provided information regarding their family resource center, food bank and CAP office. They also work with families with signing up for health services, and have an early literacy program. Fluoride treatments are also provided, as well as nutrition classes. Barriers include not having enough space, as well as parents not qualifying for services with other agencies.

Catherine Mayorga with the Guadalupe Family Resource Center/Parenting Arizona stated that they will be moving to a new location on February 1 at the former Head Start center. Barriers include transportation for the families as well as the need for food for many of the families. The center will also be a point of access with the Maricopa Workforce Connection. Chair Duane asked her to share their wish list. Council Member Wilson also asked Ms. Mayorga to include any labor needs such as painting. Ms. Mayorga further stated that in addition to the food boxes and bus tickets, they have distributed over 2,000 books to the families at different events in the town.

Lynnette Stonefeld with Communities in Schools stated that they have five Thrive to Five centers, four in Tempe and one in Ahwatukee. Each of the family resource centers is also an emergency food bank, and Health Insurance enrollment assistance is also provided. Over 300 classes are presented each year. One of the challenges is getting the word out to new parents. They also work with teen parents from Compadre High School who receive diapers for attending their high school classes.

Katie Kahle and Consuelo Roa from the Chandler Care Center presented information regarding their programs. They are a part of the Chandler Unified School District and provide a full array of services to families including no-cost medical and dental services, a WIC clinic, behavioral health, a food bank, Health Insurance enrollment assistance, and parenting programs. Two of their full-time staff are bilingual. 715 families have been helped with health insurance applications in just the first six months. Challenges with that process have been due to changes in the website. They have also started a new nutritional program which includes separate classes for the parents and children. They have also started a walking group and Yoga classes for parents together with the children

Chair Duane asked if the grantees are noticing that the parents are becoming friends and making relationships. The grantees stated that the families have indeed connected with each other, to the point of checking to make sure another parent will be attending the class. Parents also give each other rides to classes, and also babysit each other's children while that parent gets their food boxes and vice versa.

Director Updates

Regional Director Floth referred Council members to the annual report which is at their seats, and asked them to let Community Outreach Coordinator Conrad Lindo know if they wanted any.

Regional Director Floth asked Community Outreach Coordinator Lindo to provide information about the upcoming site tour. He stated that the tour will be held on January 21 at Summit School of Ahwatukee at 10:00 a.m. for about 45 minutes.

Regional Development Floth had previously asked Community Outreach Coordinator Lindo to laminate the core messages for Council members, and one was provided for each Council member.

Discussion took place about the various proposed legislation that would affect First Things First, and Council Member Donovan stated that it may be a good idea to have the email which Sam Leyvas sent out also sent to the grantees.

Regional Director Floth reminded the Council members that applications will be open for the new East Maricopa Council.

Regional Council Updates

There were no updates from the Council members.

Adjournment

Chair Duane asked for any additional questions or comments from the Council and receiving none, adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III

Approved By _____
Maureen Duane, Chair